

FARM AND DAIRY AND RURAL HOME

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1. **FARM AND DAIRY** is published every Thursday. It is the official organ of the British Columbia, Manitoba, Eastern and Western Ontario, and Bedford District, Quebec Dairymen's Associations, and of the Canadian Holstein, Ayrshire, and Jersey Cattle Breeders' Associations.

2. **SUBSCRIPTION PRICE**, \$1.00 a year, strictly in advance. Single copies, \$1.20 a year. For all countries, except Canada and Great Britain, add 50c for postage. A year's subscription free for a club of two new subscribers.

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7. **CIRCULATION STATEMENT**.—The paid subscribers to Farm and Dairy exceed 5,500. The actual circulation of each issue, including copies of the paper sent subscribers who are but slightly in arrears, and sample copies, varies from 5,000 to 10,000. All our subscriptions are accepted at less than the full subscription rates. Thus our mailing lists do not contain any dead circulation.

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We want the readers of Farm and Dairy to feel that they can rely on our advertisements. We try to do this by our columns only the most reliable advertisements. Should any subscriber have cause to be dissatisfied with the treatment he receives from any of our advertisers, we will investigate the circumstances fully. Should he find reason to believe that any of our advertisers are unreliable, even in the slightest degree, we will discontinue immediately the publication of their advertisements. Should the circumstances warrant, we will expose them in the columns of the paper. Thus we will not only protect our readers, but our reputable advertisers as well. In order to be entitled to the benefits of our Protective Policy, you need only to include in all letters to advertisement the words, "saw your advertisement in Farm and Dairy." Complaints must be made to Farm and Dairy within one week from the date of any unsatisfactory transaction, with proofs thereof, and within one month from the date that the advertisement appears, in order to take advantage of the guarantee. We do not undertake to adjust trifling differences between readers and responsible advertisers.

FARM AND DAIRY PETERBORO, ONT.

THE MARKET FOR MILCH COWS

A few weeks ago an editor of Farm and Dairy accompanied a dairyman from Fort William who was out to buy a car load of milch cattle. Very few cattle of the class wanted were offering and all were priced so high as to be well nigh prohibitive.

The buyer wanted fresh milch cows. After inspecting a herd near Peterboro of twenty-three high grade Holsteins, although only a few of the individuals were fresh or would freshen before next spring, he offered a price averaging \$87 a head. This price did not buy the cattle. The owner wanted something over \$100 a head. The cattle were a grand bunch. The individual records kept of these for the past few years showed them to have averaged nearly 9,000 pounds of milk each.

Seeing that there is and for some time has been a great scarcity of milch cows, it is passing strange that more heifer calves are not raised to maturity to supply the demand that calls so strongly for them. The demand for milch cattle is bound to grow and to continue for years to

come. Those who are in a position to raise good cows are sure to reap their reward if they will but produce them. It is essential that these be raised from good sires. The man who will buy a high-class sire to head his herd of dairy cows has an attractive proposition.

OFFICIAL TESTS OF DAIRY COWS

Champions of the yearly tests, especially since the introduction of the Record of Performance for pure bred dairy cattle, have been given to making light of the seven day and even longer short records. It would be idle to gainsay the contention that the yearly tests as compared with the seven day or even 30 day tests have the advantage. Nevertheless, seven day tests have been of great material benefit to our dairy interests and they have a large place in the estimation of all fair-minded dairymen. Seven day tests offer ample opportunity to the feeder for exercising his skill and they demonstrate the dairy qualities of a cow to a great degree.

Some expert authorities in the United States, notable among whom might be mentioned Professor Eckles of the Missouri Agricultural College, have, in a degree, pronounced against the seven day test as conducted by some breeders shortly after their cows have freshened. Their action seems to be warranted inasmuch as lately there has been a tendency on the part of a few breeders in the United States to unduly emphasize the importance of seven day records which has led them to adopt methods which are apt to bring discredit on this form of record and which are detrimental to the long continued production of a dairy cow.

It is contended that an abnormal percentage of fat is found in the milk of cows undergoing the seven day test. It is well known that by giving the cow a long period of rest and getting her into a high condition of flesh and being in the hands of expert feeders an abnormally high percentage of fat can, for a short period afterwards be obtained. Reference to the test of over 60 cows of the Holstein-Friesian breed entered in the Canadian Record of Performance test shows that as a rule, the first test does not run higher than the average for the year. In a few cases, the first tests were high, but in these instances, we are informed, that each of the cows had been prepared by heavy feeding previous to calving.

Notwithstanding the known weaknesses of seven day tests, Farm and Dairy believes in them. These tests have been of great value in interesting farmers in the producing capacities of cows and they have shown up the possibilities of milk production in a manner most favorable to the dairy industry. There is a danger here, however for those breeders who may carry this thing too far. There has been no harm worked yet in Canada from seven day records but there is a possibility of breeders making trouble for themselves and for the breed if undue emphasis is laid upon the seven day test. Now

is the time to act before any damage has been worked. Along with the judicious use of the seven day test breeders should look more and more to, and take greater advantage of, the possibilities of the Record of Performance.

Seven day records to be of the most value should be accompanied with information as to feed consumed, period of rest before freshening and other information on those points which are known to be such important factors in influencing a high record of production for a short period after calving. The seven day records made after eight months of lactation are to be commended. This latter test is calculated to show the staying powers of a cow in long periods of production and there can be little if any objection taken to it on the ground of influencing the production of fat by undue earlier preparation, or while the cow is dry. This test might well be more greatly emphasized and be patronized more by the breeders of Holstein cattle. The need of the present day breeding is not so much to develop cows that will milk heavily for a short time but that will produce heavily and be persistent throughout the longer or yearly periods.

THE DISEASE, BLACK LEG

Consequent upon the remarkable freedom from disease that has characterized the ordinary run of stock in this country, outbreaks of such maladies as Black Leg find our breeders without knowledge of the disease and without the means of combating it. Some serious local outbreaks of this malady, Black Leg, as noted elsewhere in this issue, have occurred recently in a few small sections of Eastern Ontario. One of the breeders, whose cattle were affected, on diagnosing the disease wired forthwith to Ottawa for a supply of the Anti-Black Leg vaccine. He inoculated all stock under two years of age but he was too late to save those animals that showed symptoms of the disease, five of which died. Had he been possessed of a knowledge of the deadliness of this malady and its likelihood to attack his herd, he might have saved his stock. As it is, this breeder has profited from his experience and now states that henceforth every calf bred upon, or brought on to his farm will be inoculated as often as necessary with the Anti-Black Leg vaccine, which can be secured from the Veterinary Director General's Department, Ottawa, at a trifling cost.

It is said that a number of calves on various farms in the neighborhood on different occasions have died from what was believed to be the disease, Black Leg. No effort was made to prevent other animals from being infected. In fact, very little was known about the matter. There seems to have been an air of mystery about the disease. Farmers have accepted their loss as a matter of course and one which could not be prevented. Even the local veterinarians had but the most general conception of the disease. They were wholly unprepared to check its ravages when the outbreak occurred.

Black Leg is a bacterial disease. It affects young cattle of an age under two years. The germ causing the malady is said to lurk and flourish in low lying lands where it may live for years and then cause an outbreak of the disease. The Anti-Black Leg vaccine is recommended as a sure preventative. Breeders who are likely to have stock infected with Black Leg—and all breeders of cattle are liable—should consider the matter of treating their stock so that it will be immune from the disease.

HEALTH OF LIVE STOCK

The matter of the health of live stock has become a great and is yet a growing problem in Canada. It has many divisions. Tuberculosis is the greatest. In this matter it has been charged that the dairymen are the grossest sinners. It is not our purpose here to accept this challenge as being just or unjust but rather to give out a few words of caution.

Fresh air is absolutely essential to the health of any animal. Stables corked up tight, having little or no ventilation, heated, and the cattle being forced under hot house conditions are far from right. It is highly improbable even that big records can be gotten under these conditions unless there be fresh air provided. Any who keep their stables in such a condition are laying up trouble for themselves later on.

The ordinary stable is not such as to favor the general health of an animal, not to mention the manner in which it fosters tuberculosis. It is doubtful if there is any need of having a high temperature in a dairy stable. Rather should there be a uniformity of temperature and as much fresh air as possible.

We need to practise more common sense in dairy stables. We need to beware of fads. Some of our breeders are now advocating no divisions in managers. Who can say but that in advancing the advantages of such, they may be overlooking many other things of greater importance. Schroeder says that 40 per cent. of tuberculous cattle give off the germs of the disease in their feces. Investigations by the authorities at Washington have warranted the assertion that the excreta is the most dangerous of all sources, which might spread tuberculosis. Might there not be danger of sweeping excreta, tramped there by the boots of the attendant, into the mangers of healthy stock?

As yet, the Government has not been able to satisfy itself on a policy to be followed in dealing with tuberculosis in the herds of this country. The struggle against this disease must largely be individual. Some breeders in the States and quite a sprinkling of stockmen in Canada have undertaken to have their herds tuberculin free and to offer stock for sale guaranteed to be non-reactors to the tuberculin test. The Bang system offers the most acceptable means of ridding herds of tuberculosis but if this is to become general, the Government will have to help. Unless a man be wealthy he cannot clean up

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